

**New Bedford Portfields Pilot Kick-Off Meeting Summary**  
**Buttonwood Park Zoo**  
**New Bedford, Massachusetts**  
April 7, 2004

**Welcome and Expectations**

Robert Neely of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (and currently on detail to New Bedford as a Showcase Community IPA) welcomed participants and introduced the Mayor of New Bedford, the Honorable Frederick Kalisz, Jr. Mayor Kalisz began his remarks by noting that the location of the meeting, the Buttonwood Park Zoo, is the result of a successful federal and local government partnership. Prior to the successful partnership, the zoo had to be closed due to poor conditions and loss of accreditation. As a result of the federal-local partnership, the zoo was reopened in 2000 with a much-needed education center. The New Bedford zoo project is only one of many opportunities the city has found to work with the federal government. The city of New Bedford is looking forward to working with the federal government again through the Portfields Pilot project. The major goals of the Portfields Pilot are to remediate contaminated sediments in New Bedford harbor, restore coastal environments, revitalize brownfields in or near port facilities, and dredge the harbor so that fully loaded ocean-going vessels can once again come to port in New Bedford.

Linda Garczynski, Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment (OBCR) thanked participants for coming to the pilot kick-off, and thanked NOAA for organizing this effort. In October 2000, the Brownfields National Partnership selected New Bedford as a Showcase Community. To date, The partnership between the city and federal partners has been largely successful. EPA is pleased that NOAA has designated New Bedford as one of its Portfields Pilots. This designation will foster redevelopment of brownfields in and around the port, improve transportation, and provide a critical link between the federal and local governments. Ms. Garczynski noted that half of brownfields communities have water and/or watershed issues. New Bedford and the two other Portfields Pilots will serve as models for these communities. By working together toward common goals, the Portfields partnerships can greatly improve coordination among state, local and federal governments. She stressed the importance of the kick-off meeting, and encouraged participants to get to know each other and work together to find creative solutions to improve the environment and public health in New Bedford.

Dave Kennedy, Director of NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration also thanked everyone for participating and thanked Ms. Garczynski for taking time out of her busy schedule to attend. Mr. Kennedy noted that the Portfields Pilots will address many coastal zone management issues that are common to ports across the country. Central to the Portfields concept is building partnerships and leveraging resources. He expressed his hope that the level of enthusiasm for the New Bedford Portfields Pilot remains high.

**Portfields Overview**

Rob Neely said that the Portfields Initiative is a federal interagency effort led by NOAA to address brownfields in port and harbor areas. The initiative grew out of the Brownfields Federal Partnership Action Agenda, and New Bedford had an important role in conceptualizing the Portfields program. Many brownfields are located on waterways in coastal communities. The cleanup of these brownfields can facilitate port redevelopment, thereby providing economic, environmental, and social benefits. Federal departments and agencies that are participating in the Portfields Pilot are NOAA, OBCR, U.S. Economic Development Administration, EPA Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Labor, Maritime Administration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Portfields Steering Committee is comprised of SES-level representatives of these agencies, and the Portfields Working Group of staff-level representatives is lead by David Holst of NOAA.

The Portfields program is now in Phase 3, which is its implementation phase. Phase 1 was a learning phase where representatives of ports that have successfully addressed brownfields were interviewed. Phase 2 entailed the selection of three Portfields Pilots in New Bedford, Massachusetts; Tampa, Florida; and Bellingham, Washington. The key to Phase 3, implementation, is broadening partnerships at the federal, state, and local levels. This kickoff meeting is a major step in that process. Mr. Neely emphasized that this is a pilot effort. As a pilot, participants are encouraged to try new approaches. He charged pilot participants to think broadly and be creative in maximizing investments.

### **Introduction to the Port of New Bedford**

John Simpson, Director of the New Bedford Harbor Development Commission, said that the goals of the New Bedford Portfields program are to improve the overall health of the harbor environment, improve the public's ability to use the resource, enhance the port's infrastructure, improve the marine transportation system, and fill gaps in economic development planning. New Bedford Harbor is located in southeastern Massachusetts in the lower Acushnet River watershed. The City of New Bedford is on the western side of the harbor and the City of Fairhaven is on the eastern side. The Port of New Bedford has been designated by the state as a Designated Port Area (DPA), which protects the industrial uses of the lower harbor. The port has a long fishing and whaling history and currently is home to 300 fishing vessels, one of the largest active fishing fleets on the eastern shore. Other port activities include the export of herring and mackerel, serving as a port-of-call for cruise ships, ferrying trucks to nearby islands, and providing tourist attractions.

The harbor environment is severely stressed, primarily because of PCB discharges from electronic component manufacturing that took place from the 1940s through the 1970s. New Bedford Harbor is a federal Superfund site. A Superfund Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in 1998, and EPA's Superfund program is actively remediating PCB contamination hot spots in harbor sediments. The ROD includes a "state-enhanced remedy," calling for additional dredging beyond levels necessary to ensure protection of human health. The state-enhanced remedy provides for navigational dredging of the harbor to enhance the EPA health-based remedy and allows for navigational dredging of sediments conducted as part of the remediation. New Bedford was selected as a Brownfields Showcase Community in 2000 to combine the efforts and resources of federal, state, and local partners in addressing brownfields. The city has

identified 38 brownfields covering 225 acres. Most of these brownfields are on or near the harbor waterfront and are limiting the ability to provide needed infrastructure and support to an increasing level of port activities. A major benefit to New Bedford from the Showcase Community designation has been the assignment of Rob Neely as an IPA to the city.

Several critical revitalization elements are already in place in addition to the Superfund ROD. The cities of New Bedford and Fairhaven have jointly developed the New Bedford-Fairhaven Harbor Plan for the state DPA. A Dredged Material Management Plan has been completed to support navigational dredging of the harbor. The New Bedford Harbor Development Commission (the Commission), established by the state in 1957 to develop and promote the port, completed Phase 1 dredging in 2002 to deepen some navigational areas at a cost of \$6 million. This was accomplished in nine months, from permitting to implementation. Repairs to some piers also were completed at a cost of \$2 million. Other projects that need to be implemented include dredging of federal navigational channels and turning basins, pier expansion and modernization, improvements to Route 18 to allow better public access to the waterfront, and replacement of the Route 6 bridge over the harbor.

Navigational harbor dredging is needed to enable fully loaded freight vessels to berth in the port. The sediments, which are contaminated with heavy metals and PCBs, cannot be disposed of off shore. While the Superfund remediation is taking care of areas contaminated with higher than 50 ppm of PCBs, the Commission will be responsible for properly disposing of an estimated two million cubic yards of sediments dredged from all other areas of the harbor. The Commission plans to dispose of dredged sediments in two large underwater confined aquatic disposal cells that will be capped.

Other revitalization projects include improving the Gifford Street Boat Ramp in New Bedford, improving the Pease Street Boat Ramp in Fairhaven, construction of an Intermodal Transportation Center at a former railroad depot, development of the Hicks-Logan area of New Bedford into a mixed-use area to serve waterfront, relocation of six combined sewer overflows (CSOs) still discharging into New Bedford harbor, restoration of habitat at Palmers Cove, and redevelopment of the Reliable Truss site into a shoreline recreational area.

The City of New Bedford has been accumulating data on the economic benefits of its revitalization efforts. For every dollar of public funds spent on revitalization projects, the city has leveraged \$22.50 of private funds.

### **Bus Tour**

The city sponsored a bus tour of the harbor facilities of New Bedford and its across-the-bay neighbor Fairhaven, in particular those facilities that have recently been redeveloped and those that need to be redeveloped. The tour was narrated by Matt Thomas of the City of New Bedford and Bill Roth of the City of Fairhaven.

### **Federal, State, and Local Commitments**

Brent Ache afforded each participating agency an opportunity to detail their organization's resources and commitments as they relate to assisting New Bedford to accomplish its four Portfields goals. He challenged each organization to think outside the box, and asked participants to make a note of any agencies that were not present that could potentially assist the city.

**Federal Partner Commitments:**

***U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)***

EPA pledged support in the form of technical assistance, research opportunities, laboratory support, and existing grant vehicles. EPA previously awarded the City of New Bedford brownfields assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan fund grants. In addition, the city was selected as a Showcase Community and was provided with a full-time staff person under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA). EPA pledged to continue supporting New Bedford by:

- § Providing New Bedford with limited Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) resources that could be used for site characterization and assessment activities (including sediment sampling at the boat ramp site), and brownfields redevelopment planning activities;
- § Encouraging New Bedford to reapply for an EPA Smart Growth grant;
- § Meeting with representatives from the City of Fairhaven to discuss the community's brownfields, opportunities for the city to apply for future brownfields funding, and potential other assistance that EPA can provide the City of Fairhaven (Brownfields 101);
- § Encouraging New Bedford to apply for a brownfields cleanup grant for the Reliable Trust site;
- § Providing guidance and assistance to New Bedford to help the city identify all potential uses of current brownfields funding, including the potential use of brownfields assessment grant monies for planning activities at the Hicks-Logan site;
- § Continuing to work with the city on the Superfund cleanup, community outreach activities, and the construction of the dewatering facility; and
- § Exploring other technical assistance or funding opportunities in relation to water quality protection projects for wastewater treatment, nonpoint source pollution control, and watershed and estuary management using Clean Water State Revolving Fund monies.

***Action Items:***

- § Patricia Overmeyer (OBCR) and Dale Matey (OSWER) will get in touch with EPA's Office of Water to get information about the watershed grant program and will forward this information to the city;
- § Diane Kelley (EPA Region 1) will set up a "Brownfields 101" meeting with Fairhaven, will act as the EPA liaison between the city and the regional smart growth planner, and will work with the city to identify potential uses of EPA Region 1 TBA resources; and
- § Linda Garczynski (OBCR) will send a copy of the factsheet detailing eligibility of State Revolving Fund monies for brownfields cleanups to MA DEP.

***U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)***

USACE provides comprehensive planning, design, technical, and construction and engineering management support to the Army and the nation. Within the scope of this mission, USACE supports community brownfields redevelopment efforts through its specific, Congressionally authorized water-resource related projects or by way of reimbursable engineering activities. USACE offers expertise in flood control, dredging, and environmental restoration, collaborating

with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and community and civic organizations. Unlike other federal agencies, USACE has no specific authority for brownfields assessment, cleanup, or redevelopment. Instead, USACE provides support for brownfields projects under related authorities involving civil works and water resources, which emanate from USACE's Continuing Authorities Program, Support for Others Program, and Planning Assistance to States. In addition, the Corps may contribute to brownfields redevelopment through its General Investigations projects involving larger geographical areas, which must be specifically authorized by Congress. USACE will continue to support the city's goals by offering technical assistance, dredging activities, and environmental restoration support. More specifically, USACE pledged to support New Bedford's Portfields Pilot by:

- § Continuing to offer environmental dredging outside of federal navigation channels under Section 312 of WRDA (perhaps Portfields designation will spur redevelopment activities, thereby having a favorable impact on cost/benefit analysis needed to continue dredging);
- § Working with the city to prepare a request for environmental restoration funding (which does not require Congressional solicitation, but is subject to the availability of funds), and pursuing opportunities to incorporate environmental restoration into all potential projects;
- § Exploring beneficial use of dredged material assistance (Section 204), planning assistance to states (Section 22), river basin studies (Section 729), and aquatic ecosystem restoration funding (Section 206); all of these programs (with the exception of Section 729 study funds) require a local funding match (note that EPA funds can be used for the local match for Section 22 assistance).
- § Investigate the possibility of using USACE funds to complete studies necessary to update the port's facilities management plan and conduct sewer separation planning, thereby freeing up State Revolving Fund monies to be used for updating combined sewer overflows.

*Action Items:*

- § The city will work with USACE to draft a request for environmental restoration funding; and
- § USACE will work with the city to explore possible technical and funding assistance under the auspices of WRDA Sections 204, 22, 729, and 206.

***National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)***

Portfields is a NOAA led federal interagency effort that focuses on the redevelopment of brownfields in port and harbor areas, with emphasis on development of environmentally sound port facilities. The Ports of Bellingham, WA, New Bedford, MA, and Tampa, FL, have been selected as Portfields pilot ports. The Portfields federal agencies will work in close partnership to provide targeted resources to assist these pilot ports redevelop brownfields and revitalize waterfront areas, improve marine transportation, and protect and restore coastal habitat.

Portfields is an opportunity for the federal government to partner with port communities, state programs, and other stakeholders to help build on the port's existing efforts to be both an engine of commerce and a good steward of the environment.

NOAA remains the lead agency in the interagency Portfields effort, and will continue to coordinate the implementation of Portfields activities. NOAA has set aside \$90,000 of existing resources to support the three designated Portfields Pilots. In addition to organizing, coordinating, and facilitating the New Bedford Portfields Pilot kick-off meeting, NOAA's

**National Ocean Service (NOS)** pledged to:

- \$ Coordinate Portfields activities both at the Headquarters level and at the local level (through New Bedford IPA/Portfields coordinator Robert Neely);
- \$ Produce outreach materials (in the form of videos, fact sheets, year end reports, etc.);
- \$ Provide technical and process related support (time and resources permitting) associated with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), risk assessment, sampling design, and restoration strategies;
- \$ Work through the Office of Response and Restoration to connect NOAA scientists with EPA Remedial Project Managers at the New Bedford Superfund site;
- \$ Explore opportunities to fund specific projects with seed money; and
- \$ Identify, in partnership with state coastal management programs, opportunities to support Portfields pilots through implementation of the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Act; eligible activities may include community and waterfront revitalization planning, coastal resource protection, and enhancement of public access.

Within NOAA, the **National Marine Fisheries Service** (NMFS) is responsible for the management, conservation, and protection of living marine resources within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone. NMFS also plays a supportive and advisory role in the management of living marine resources in coastal areas under state jurisdiction, provides scientific and policy leadership in the international arena and implements international conservation and management measures as appropriate. NMFS pledged to:

- \$ Consult with federal agencies involved in activities having an impact on marine ecosystems in New Bedford harbor, including all activities requiring a permit;
- \$ Conduct essential fish habitat (EFH) reviews and studies when appropriate;
- \$ Keep informed of all Portfields Pilot activities affecting living marine resources from the start of the project; and
- \$ Give consideration to a request by the city to create a new criteria for Portfields in Harbor Trustee Funding guidelines.

*Action Items:*

- \$ NOS will continue to coordinate the efforts of all federal partners involved in the Portfields Pilot;
- \$ NOS will provide technical and process-related support to the city, as requested;
- \$ NOS will explore funding options (in the form of project-specific seed money) for New Bedford projects;
- \$ NOS's CZM program will work with the state CZM program to explore funding options for New Bedford projects;
- \$ NMFS will keep abreast of project activities relating to living marine resources and will consult with federal agencies on Pilot activities; and
- \$ New Bedford will draft a letter to the Harbor Trustees requesting that a Portfields designation be given more weight when funding decisions for projects are made.

### ***U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)***

HUD provides grant funds and economic development loan guarantees to help communities clean up and redevelop brownfields. HUD has three principal economic programs that communities can use to clean up and revitalize contaminated sites: annual formula grants allocated to states and entitlement communities through Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); low interest economic development loan guarantees available through the Section 108 Loan Guarantee program; and competitive grants through the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI). Additionally, there are other economic development, housing, and technical assistance programs available to assist communities with brownfields revitalization, including the Renewal Community/Empowerment Zone/ Enterprise Community Initiative (RC/EZ/EC). To assist New Bedford, HUD will:

- Continue to consider New Bedford in awarding formula grants and loans to be used for construction projects, low income housing, and job creation;
- Work with the city to secure funding specifically tailored to redevelopment projects, including Community Block Development Grants (CBDG), Section 108 loan guarantees, and Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants (which, incidentally, are not included in the President's budget for FY05);
- Make HUD funds available as a local match for USACE funds;
- Investigate the city's concerns regarding Section 108 loans affecting the city's bond rating; and
- Work with the city as it reprograms \$2.25 million in HUD grants intended for the Oceanarium and Incubator projects that were never used.

#### ***Action Items:***

- HUD will continue to explore funding and loan options with the city; and
- Rob Neely will contact representatives from MassDevelopment and the MA Department of Housing and Community Development to invite them to partner with New Bedford in this Portfields Pilot.

### ***U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA)***

The purpose of EDA is to generate new jobs, help retain existing jobs, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth in economically distressed areas of the United States. EDA assistance is available to rural and urban areas experiencing high unemployment, low income, or other severe economic distress. EDA helps distressed communities address problems not only associated with long-term economic distress, but also with sudden and severe economic dislocations, including recovering from the economic impacts of natural disasters, the closure of military installations and other federal facilities, changing trade patterns, and the depletion of natural resources.

Although EDA was not present at the meeting, the city requested that EDA:

- \$ Create a new economic development "spin-off" dealing with technical support;
- \$ Create a specific Portfields category in their funding mechanisms; and
- \$ Make planning money available to assist with the Hicks Logan site.

#### ***Action Items:***

- \$ Rob Neely will arrange for a conference call between EDA and the city to discuss these requests.

### ***U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)***

DOL's role in the Brownfields Federal Partnership falls within the Department's existing mission to provide job training and permanent job placement. DOL's basic job and life skills training serves as a necessary complement to other, more environmentally focused training programs designed to help assess and cleanup brownfields. Together, these programs ensure that community residents most impacted by brownfields will directly benefit from their redevelopment. Although DOL was not present at the meeting, they may be able to offer assistance through their workforce development boards (New Directions in New Bedford).

*Action Items:*

- § Rob Neely will set up a conference call between DOL and the city to discuss assistance mechanisms.

***U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration (MARAD)***

MARAD's mission is to strengthen the U.S. maritime transportation system—including infrastructure, industry and labor—to meet the economic and security needs of the nation. MARAD programs promote the development and maintenance of an adequate, well-balanced United States merchant marine, sufficient to carry the nation's domestic waterborne commerce and a substantial portion of its waterborne foreign commerce, and capable of service as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency. MARAD also seeks to ensure that the United States maintains adequate shipbuilding and repair services, efficient ports, effective intermodal water and land transportation systems, and reserve shipping capacity for use in time of national emergency. A primary goal of MARAD is to formalize environmental considerations in their operations and in their partnerships with other agencies and private stakeholders to streamline processes that lead to environmentally friendly transportation improvements.

Although not present at the meeting, MARAD could help New Bedford by:

- § Updating PORTS software (an economic impact analysis tool); and
- § Providing guidance and technical assistance as the port prepares to serve as an intermodal center for short sea shipping.

*Action Item:*

- § Rob Neely will set up a conference call between MARAD and the city to discuss needs and available resources.

***U.S. Department of Transportation, Volpe Center***

The John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is an internationally recognized center of transportation and logistics expertise. The Center assists federal, state, and local governments, industry, and academia in a number of areas, including human factors research, system design, implementation, and assessment, global tracking, strategic investment and resource allocation, environmental preservation, and organizational effectiveness. In these and other areas, the Center provides its customers with valued policy support and strategic planning and analysis. The Volpe Center's Environmental Engineering Division has been supporting EPA Region 1's Brownfields Program since 2000 and has conducted Targeted Brownfields Assessments in Bellingham, Hardwick, and Lowell, Massachusetts. Other Volpe resources specifically support maritime and port-related initiatives including Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) (i.e., St. Lawrence Seaway).



The Volpe Center does not award grants, however, Volpe personnel have detailed knowledge of USDOT grants programs. Volpe can also provide technical expertise.

- § The city specifically asked for technical assistance in dealing with Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).
- § As a general point of clarification, New Bedford asked if DOT would consider folding appropriations for water highways into the DOT Bond Bill. The city also would like to get money for port infrastructure.

*Action Item:*

- § Rob Neely will set up a conference call between the Volpe Center and the city to discuss needs and available resources.

**State and Local Partner Commitments:**

***Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF)***

The mission of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries is to manage the Commonwealth's living marine resources and the harvesting of those resources by the commercial and recreational fisheries, while maintaining a diverse number of self-sustaining fish populations at healthy levels of abundance in balance with the ecosystem. DMF pledged to support the New Bedford Portfields Pilot by:

- § Providing information on living marine resources that will help minimize potentially harmful activities in later stages of Portfields activities;
- § Offering to partner with the city to apply for Tier II boating infrastructure grants (administered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) that can be used to construct, renovate, or maintain tie-up facilities for transient, nontrailerable recreational vessels; and
- § Providing technical assistance in the development of a resource management plan.

***Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management***

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) is a part of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Its mission is to balance the impacts of human activity with the protection of coastal and marine resources. As a networked program, CZM was specifically established to work with other state agencies, federal agencies, local governments, academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and the general public to promote sound management of the Massachusetts coast. CZM is funded primarily through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, NOAA, and EPA. CZM can assist New Bedford by:

- § Providing technical assistance on restoration projects.

***Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup (BWSC)***

The Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup is responsible for ensuring timely and effective responses to over 2,000 environmental emergencies (e.g., oil spills, chemical fires) per year. The Bureau also oversees the timely assessment and cleanup of the more than 6,000 confirmed and suspected hazardous waste sites across Massachusetts by the private parties responsible for environmental contamination.

Because the New Bedford Superfund site is an EPA Fund lead site, the state pays for ten percent of the remediation costs, and will pay 100 percent of the operation and maintenance costs above the amount recovered in the settlement with the Responsible Parties. The DEP requested and EPA included in the 1998 New Bedford Harbor Superfund site Record of Decision (ROD) additional navigational dredging as an Enhancement of Remedy. The Enhancement allows for the additional dredging of a large amount of lesser contaminated sediments from the site. DEP, with assistance from the Portfields steering committee and technical advisory group, will apply the "state-enhanced remedy" provision of the ROD as the procedural mechanism for streamlined processing of navigational dredging projects. This inclusion of navigational dredging in the ROD would link, as appropriate, the dredging and disposal of sediments dredged from the harbor's navigational channels with statutory authorities and the Superfund program. The state dredging bond would pay for the additional navigational dredging. DEP is working with EPA on an agreement to make DEP the lead agency for the Enhancement. The Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) identified in the ROD will be used in place of permits. DEP will follow the same remedial process to implement the enhancement dredging as U.S. EPA does to the Superfund remedy.

*Action Items:*

- § Within one week, the city will release a detailed deliverables schedule to DEP;
- § EPA and DEP will continue to negotiate the state enhanced remedy;
- § DEP will continue to define performance standards;
- § DEP, EPA, and New Bedford will conduct outreach to the regulated community on the specifics of the state enhanced remedy; and
- § The state enhanced remedy subgroup will consider meeting more frequently (perhaps utilizing existing mechanisms such as regularly scheduled teleconferences and meetings) to further develop and refine state enhanced remedy activities.

***Seaport Advisory Council***

As part of the Office of the Lt. Governor, the Seaport Advisory Council is tasked by the Governor to implement a statewide seaport strategy, the Seaport Initiative. It is to accomplish this task by coordinating state agencies' activities that are associated with seaport planning and development and by making funding recommendations for Seaport development activities and projects to the Governor. Of primary importance to its mission is the coordination of a statewide dredging program, its planning, technical expertise, project implementation and funding. And finally, to serve the Governor in the development and articulation of sound statewide commercial maritime policy for the Commonwealth with particular attention to review of state programs and regulatory protocols that both affect and implement that policy.

*Action Item:*

- § Rob Neely will pass along information regarding the outcomes of the Seaport meeting (TBD) to the federal and state Portfields partners.

***Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD)***

SRPEDD's mission is to plan for the future of southeastern Massachusetts, including the expansion of economic development opportunities, protection of natural and historic resources, and development of excellent physical and cultural amenities. SRPEDD noted that the

Commuter Rail Growth Management Task Force will be reconvened with a new scope. The task force will examine ways that the New Bedford commuter rail station can promote economic growth in the area.

*Action Item:*

SRPEDD will work with New Bedford to determine how the commuter rail project can benefit the city.

***Coalition for Buzzards Bay***

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay works throughout the entire Buzzards Bay Watershed to protect the region's coastal, river, and drinking water quality and the upland forests, wetlands and streams that support a healthy watershed/bay ecosystem. The coalition's primary role in the Portfields project is advocacy and community outreach. In addition, the coalition has an extensive water quality monitoring program that it can make available to interested parties. The coalition pledged to:

- \$ Make its water quality data available to the city and state and federal partners;
- \$ Ensure that the Portfields process involves the community when appropriate;
- \$ Use its resources and donor base to try to raise money for public/private partnerships;
- \$ Continue to applaud the efforts of the city and partners for improving public trust;
- \$ Work with NFMS to apply for community-based restoration funding
- \$ Apply for an EPA watershed grant; and
- \$ Become more involved with restoration projects.

*Action Items:*

- \$ The coalition will contact NMFS regarding the community-based restoration funding.
- \$ The coalition will contact EPA to discuss applying for a watershed grant.

**Next Steps:**

Rob Neely noted that the next New Bedford Portfields Pilot meeting will be held on June 16, 2004. Rob will develop an agenda for this meeting and forward it to participants. If any federal, state, or local partners have agenda items that they would like included, they should contact Rob. NOAA hopes to have some successes documented in time for EPA's Brownfields 2004 Conference in St. Louis (September 20-22). NOAA is arranging a Portfields session at the Brownfields Conference, and hopes that some partnering agencies, as well as the city, can attend. The city, on behalf of the mayor, thanked all participants for traveling to New Bedford, and for their commitment to making the Portfields Pilot a success.

**Meeting Adjourned**

### Project-Specific Assistance Matrix

Project	NOAA	EPA	USACE	HUD	DOL	EDA	MA DEP	MA CZM	MA DMF	CBB
Reliable Trust/Rivers End Park	T		T						T	T
Palmers Cove/ Standard Times Field	T		T					T	T	
CSO Relocation			T				T			
Dredging–Phase II and III	T	T	T			T	T		T	
Intermodal Center		T		T	T	T	T			

Hicks-Logan Waterfront Plan				T		T				
Boat Ramp Repairs and Enhancement	T	T						T	T	T

Key:

NOAA = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

EPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

HUD = U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

DOL = U.S. Department of Labor

EDA = Economic Development Administration

MA DEP = Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

MA CZM = Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

MA DMF = Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

CBB = Coalition for Buzzards Bay

## **New Bedford Portfields Pilot Kick-Off Meeting**

**April 7, 2004**

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